

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 05349 022330Z

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: THEODORAKIS SUPPORTS CARAMANLIS

1. ATHENS PRESS AUGUST 1 GAVE PROMINENT ATTENTION TO INTERVIEW OF FRANCE SOIR WITH MIKIS THEODORAKIS. TO VIMA HEADLINE CONVEYED POSITIVE TONE OF INTERVIEW WITH HEADLINE, "WE MUST ALL HELP CARAMANLIS....HE WHO DOES NOT SEE THIS IS BLIND."

2. ON PRIME MINISTER, THEODORAKIS SAID: " IN THE PAST I WAS A MERCILESS OPPONENT OF CARAMANLIS. TODAY I AM HIS FOLLOWER; THE ENTIRE GREEK PEOPLE FOLLOW HIM. THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS WITH HIM.... WITH THE PEOPLE HE WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH HIS BRIDGEHEAD, BUT NOW THE ENTIRE PEOPLE MUST HELP HIM CONSOLIDATE THIS POSITION; THEY MUST STRUGGLE TOWARD THE SAME DIRECTION SO THAT THE BRIDGEHEAD BECOMES WIDER..."

3. "FURTHER," HE SAID, "AFTER CONSOLIDATING THE INITIAL POCKET OF FREEDOM, POLITICAL PARTIES MUST BE ORGANIZED AROUND ELECTIONS FOR MAYORS AND TRADE UNION LEADERS, AND FINALLY THERE MUST BE NATIONAL FREE ELECTIONS.." "I KNOW THAT CARAMANLIS AGREES ON THIS PROGRAM AND ON THE DECISION TO ALLOW LEGAL EXISTENCE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. HE HAS LEARNED A LOT DURING THE ELEVEN YEARS

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 05349 022330Z

OF HIS EXILE IN FRANCE, EVEN IN REGARDS TO DE GAULLE WHO IN

CERTAIN INSTANCES DID NOT LACK LIBERALISM."

4. THEODORAKIS ALSO PRAISED THE STUDENTS WHOSE "SLAUGHTER AT THE POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL LAST NOVEMBER GAVE RISE TO RESISTANCE AMONG THE PEOPLE"; NEITHER DENIED OR AFFIRMED THAT CARAMANLIS MIGHT OFFER HIM A GOVERNMENT POSITION, NOTING "WE ALL HAVE TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE UNIFICATION OF MODERN AND FREE GREECE. WE ARE ALL SOLDIERS. MY SECTOR IS THE LEFT; IT IS NECESSARY THAT THIS BROAD SPECTRUM OBTAIN STRUCTURES. THIS IS MY OBJECTIVE. I WANT TO WORK FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE LARGE POLITICAL PARTY OF THE NEW LEFT." HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO MOVE CAUTIOUSLY AND AVOID ANTAGONIZING THE FORCES OF THE DEFEATED REGIME WHICH ARE STILL PRESENT.

5. THEODORAKIS CLAIMED TO HAVE SIGNED A MANIFESTO JOINTLY WITH THE KKE OF EXTERIOR IN SUPPORT OF CARAMANLIS. NOTE: WE CANNOT IDENTIFY WHAT STATEMEN HE REFERENCES.

6. COMMENT: THEODORAKIS SOUNDS LIKE HE HAS LEARNED FROM RECENT YEARS OF EXILE. HIS STATEMENT IS POSITIVE TOWARD CARAMANLIS AND COMBINED WITH CARAMANLIS' INTERVIEW WITH ILIAS ILIOU ON AUGUST 1 AND SUPPORT STATEMENTS COMING FROM OTHER LEFTIST SPOKESMEN, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, SUGGESTS A HONEYMOON BETWEEN THE LEFT AND THE NEW PM.
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